

# Pacific Pride

For the families of Marines and sailors of the Command Element



Vol. 1, Issue 1

11th Marine Expeditionary Unit

## From the Commanding Officer

11th MEU Families and Friends,

Greetings from Southern California Logistics Airport! Approximately 400 Marines and sailors from the 11th MEU are here with me in Victorville, California conducting a training exercise called "Training in an Urban Environment" or "TRUE" from October 11-21. TRUE is part of the routine, six-month training cycle that each MEU undergoes in preparation for deployment, and provides us with a realistic, unfamiliar urban environment in which to train. TRUE has been conducted since 1985 in various cities along the west and east coasts.

While we are deployed overseas, the 11th MEU will act as America's quick reaction force to safeguard U.S. citizens around the globe and support our nation's interests. Since three-quarters of the world's population live in urban environments, Marines must be prepared to respond to missions in overseas urban locations in support of the Global War on Terrorism. As you can imagine, TRUE is a vitally important exercise to prepare us for this possibility.

TRUE training offers various groups from the 11th MEU many different aspects of urban training.

**Continued on pg. 2**

## Command Element Supports MSEs During Urban Training

Victorville, Calif., – Not long after returning from a two-week deployment to the Gulfport, Miss., Region in support of victims of Hurricane



Katrina, most Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit Command Element deployed to conduct Training In An Urban Environment, here Oct. 11-20, 2005.

Command Element sections who participated included communications, logistics, operations, and intelligence personnel.

The purpose of TRUE is to enhance urban warfare skills taught during the individual and unit training phases. Training included three training evolutions that included Close Quarters Battle practical application, breaching exercises, urban reconnaissance and surveillance (R&S) training, aviation urban navigation, aviation assault support, offensive air support, according to the Special Operations Training Group Letter of Instruction.

Each event was structured to facilitate the integration of the Command, Maritime Special Purpose Force Elements and MEU major subordinate elements in order to prepare them for operations in the Global War on Terrorism.

The MEU Service Support Elements included elements of Marine Medium Attack Helicopter Squadron 166 (Reinforced), Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, Calif., Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment and MEU Service Support Group 11, both from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The pre-deployment training was provided by the I MEF, G-7, SOTG, Camp Pendleton.

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## From CO, continued from page 1

The first group is our Maritime Special Purpose Force, or MSPF. The MSPF is comprised of our Force Reconnaissance platoon; an infantry platoon called the "Security Platoon" that, not surprisingly, provides security for our Force Recon Marines; and Marines who specialize in various other jobs such as explosive ordnance, reconnaissance, signals intelligence, communications, and combat photography. The MSPF will be practicing their tactics, techniques and procedures used during precision raids in an urban, vice rural, environment. During these two weeks, the MEU will conduct three separate "missions" with the MSPF raiding designated houses and buildings in the greater Victorville area. These raid locations have generously been offered up for training by citizens of the Victorville community who own this land.

The second group of Marines training here is our pilots and crew chiefs who will be practicing flying in and around the city in order to hone their urban navigation skills. They will have to take into consideration power lines, high-rise buildings, the city street layout, and other complications not found aboard Camp Pendleton or in an unpopulated area. Our pilots will also be undergoing the challenging task of landing in various city parks to practice urban landings and takeoffs.

The third group of Marines training here is from the MEU Command Element. We help the MSPF and pilots plan for each of the three urban raids. Certain staff sections, such as our S-4 and Headquarters Commandant, are also helping support the exercise to ensure everything goes smoothly throughout the two weeks.

The exercise is being hosted and evaluated by a group of non-MEU Marines from Camp Pendleton's Special Operations Training Group, or SOTG, belonging to our higher headquarters, I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF). They are the ones who have planned and coordinated with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, in addition to the Federal Aviation Administration, to ensure the training goes well.

Your Marines and sailors have been adamantly working through this series of training evolutions to prepare for our upcoming deployment, which are invaluable and essential to our success. The nature of what we do as Marines and sailors is dangerous. In order to be prepared to meet any contingency during deployment, it is imperative that we conduct this training. Again, I thank you, the spouses, families and friends of 11th MEU Marines and sailors for your support during this busy time.

While we will train hard, I can also ensure you that safety is extremely important to me. I will not allow anyone to take unnecessary risks during workups; it's just not worth it. I can promise you that before every training evolution, safety issues are addressed.

Until the next newsletter in November, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful month. October will be a busy one for the Marines of the MEU as we finish up TRUE and soon thereafter board the three amphibious of the USS Peleliu Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG-3) for our first at-sea training exercise called "ESGINT." In addition, I'd like to invite you to periodically check in with us at the 11th MEU's website at [www.11meu.usmc.mil](http://www.11meu.usmc.mil). We continually update information on it for the benefit of 11th MEU family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Col Bullard

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**SgtMaj. Willie F. Metoyer enjoys a cold one with Lance Cpl. William Chan during a barbecue at a lake in Gulfport, Miss., during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.**



**Capt. Eleazar Vazquez, S3, uses a branch to retrieve a soccer ball that was kicked into the lake.**

## From the Sergeant Major

I would like to welcome all the new Marines and their families to the 11th MEU. Things are starting to roll. Once we're done with TRUE we will roll right into our first "field exercise" during our first at sea period. Before we know it, Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year will be here, and our Marines will be taking leave.

I want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season and I look forward to meeting everyone in the near future.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Robert B. Callahan on his promotion to staff sergeant and to Sgt.'s Gustavo M. Lucio, Melinda Hurst, Christopher Farnes, Tony K. Guerrero, Jose L. Lomeli and Antonio Serrano on their selection to staff sergeant. Congratulations also go to Cpl. Able, HMM-166 for being the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's NCO of the Quarter and Lance Cpl. Colon, MEU Service Support Group 11. She was named the MEU's Marine Of The Quarter. Both Marines will be meritoriously promoted to the next grade and will be awarded the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Semper Fidelis,

Sgt Maj. Willie F. Metoyer,  
Sergeant Major, 11th MEU

## S-3 Operations Section

Everything has been moving smoothly and on schedule for S3 thanks to one of our new Marines. Great job to Pfc. Wayne D. Jondle, Marine Air Ground Task Force Planner. Jondle is new to the MEU and has been impressive so far, according to MSgt. Karl W. Vordahl, section chief. Jondle just recently graduated from M Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif. Coincidentally, this is the same company and battalion Vordahl graduated from.

Jondle displays great bearing and maturity for a young Marine and his future looks bright, said Vordahl.

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## Indoor/Outdoor Activities



### Bowling Center

Bldg. 1339: (760) 725-5945

#### Cosmic Bowling

Hours are:

Wednesday: 1 pm - 3 pm - Regular Rate

Friday: 9 pm - Midnight - \$2.50 Per Game Pre-Paid

Saturday: 1 pm - 3 pm - Regular Rate

Saturday: 6:30 pm - Midnight

\$2.50 Per Game Pre-Paid

#### Special Programs!

Our Cosmic Bowling Program is available for Military and Private Authorized Groups of 50 or more as agreed upon for the day and time of the event.

**Please Call 725-5945 or 725-6784**

**BILLIARDS:** 12 superb regulation Brunswick tables by the hour. Any number can play!

**BOWLING:** 40 lanes available, exciting programs including both regular open play and cosmic play!

**ARCADE:** 70+ video games for all skill levels

**PROSHOP:** visit our Full Service Proshop - let us help you find just the 'right item'! (760) 725-6784

**THE TEN-PIN CAFÉ:** Our snack bar provides a unique variety of foods and beverages

**INTERNET ACCESS:** Use our pay-as-you-go Internet Machine to surf the net, check e-mail!

**BIG SCREEN TV:** Our facility features one large screen television and 42 regular size to keep you abreast of the latest news as well as other popular prime time broadcasts.

**PHONES and FAMILY:** Need a place to meet family and friends or a safe place to call back home? The Entertainment Center is the place and easy to find on base! Pay phones are available inside for your use. **NEW!!! We now feature a full service ATM machine!**

**ITT:** (Information, Tickets and Tours) Here you can pick up tickets of all kinds from movies to theme parks and even Ticket Master events. Or, you can get your next cruise, airline ticket, vacation package or tour in our brand new 'Latitudes Travel Office'. Maps, postcards and lots of free brochures!

### Del Mar Marina

Bldg. 21550: (760) 725-SAIL

### Lake O'Neill

Bldg. 2680: (760) 725-5611

The Lake O'Neill peninsula is available for large group activities like promotions, retirements and wedding receptions. This area has picnic cabanas, BBQ grills, a stage, electrical power and athletic facilities.



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## Marine & Family Services, Information & Referral

**ONE CALL** Does it All!

**Hours:** 0730-1600 Monday - Friday

**Location:** Marine & Family Services, Building 13150, C Street and 14th Street, 1st Floor.

**Phone:** (760) 725-3400/6090 or (800) 253-1624

**DSN:** 365-3400

### **ONE CALL**

can link you to all of  
Camp Pendleton Marine & Family Services'  
Programs

Confused and not sure where to turn for help? Have questions? Looking for answers? Call or visit us for help. We can link you to available programs and services on the Camp Pendleton or throughout surrounding communities. We have something for everyone ... singles, married, and families. We can locate resources **throughout the USA!** If we are not available at the time you call, just leave a message with your phone number, and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Information & Referral Toll-Free Number is also for Families of deployed Marines: (800) 253-1624\*\*

## Children and Teen Programs

This Branch provides a full range of services to support parents in raising their children.

Services include parent information, education, out-of-home child care and youth services for ages 6 weeks to 18 years of age (still in school). Program components include: Resource and Referral, Child Development Centers, Family Child Care, Fisher Children's Center, Youth Programs and School Age Care.

Children, Youth & Teen Programs Administration Office (760) 725-6308 Bldg. 13150

## Key Volunteer Network (KVN)

Key Volunteer Network conducts training for family readiness programs that enhances unit and family readiness.

### **KVN Training**

Family Readiness Officer

Key Volunteer

Key Volunteer Coordinator

**KVN Programs Support, Guest Speaker, Consultations, KVN archive of ideas & resources**

"Strengthening unit communities through family readiness education"

For more information call 760-725-6637 or 760-725-9052

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## **Chaplain's Corner**

### The Pain of Separation

Separation from those we love is powerful. As we deploy, I invite you to read some on the emotional impact of this separation in our pre-deployment guide or in other sources such as:

<http://lifelines2000.org/services/articles/20020204/101923.asp>

Many find these separations hit them harder than they expect. As we read, it all sounds good...it all seems to help, but when the separation hits, we just weren't ready for it. We find that we are distracted with an overwhelming pain, we cry when we didn't expect to, we explode when there is little to frustrate us, or we get depressed and grind to a halt.

Yes, there are emotional things we can do...and should do, but I would ask you to do some spiritual thinking at a time like this as well.

Find a time to ask some basic questions like:

Just who do I live for? What goals do I have right now in life? What would it be like if God were to intervene in my situation right now...right where I'm at...and help me with this? What would I be like? What would I want? What would God want for me? How would I be different?

Just making some time to see and think spiritually will change things and you. Maybe it will remind you of healthy people you should talk to and get guidance or support. Maybe there are good habits that you can pick-up and begin with again. Maybe there are new habits you can form to make you more healthy.

And more than anything, spiritual thinking allows you to think about your loss—and, if your separation is temporary, plan for a reunion. Don't allow the pain of separation to steal the chance to celebrate someone when they are there. Use some time with God to get your life growing again.

## **Medical Detachment**

Last month, the 11th MEU Medical Detachment completed its final mission during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts Sept. 17. This month, they took their skills to TRUE. During their deployment, Senior Chief Petty Officer Michael J. Smith, senior corpsman, was tasked with preparing a medical evacuation and contingency plan for each of the three training evolutions conducted by the MEU. HM2 Don Bradshaw, hospital corpsman, the MEU medical section and the other corpsmen attached to the units in the field, made the Marines' health their top priority.

## **Staff Judge Advocate**

The MEU legal section is back in full swing with Maj. Chris Walters, SJA, returning for another deployment and welcoming Lance Cpl. Zaneta Smith as the new legal chief. We've been busy with our recent sudden deployment last month to Mississippi in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and participating in workups, such as TRUE in Victorville, Calif., and the upcoming at-sea periods.

We're staying busy with a heavier than usual legal workload and conducting Rules of Engagement and Law of War training for all 2,300 Marines and Sailors of the MEU.

We wish to thank our families and friends for their continuing support during this hectic period.

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## **S-6 Chief Praises Marines For Their Leadership, Hard Work**

**By MSgt. Mathis B. Richard**

Upon arrival at the site, Lance Cpl. Robert G. Bournival, Lance Cpl. Owen A. Dudley, and Pfc. David A. Gonzales set up the satellite communications radio and informed Camp Pendleton we had arrived safely. Over the next few days, the Marines set up the campsite, generators, and communications equipment.

The Ground Mobile Forces Team Leader, Sgt. Jeffery A. Keys, ensured that his team consisting of Lance Cpl. John J. Zinninger and Lance Cpl. William D. Cruz efficiently and effectively established satellite access to the distant end's Standardized Tactical Entry Point, ensuring solid camp communication services for the Landing Force Operations Center.

Sgt. Todd S. Drummond, the resident technical controller, not only ensured that all communication circuits were properly encrypted and routed, but was also instrumental in providing solid troubleshooting guidance to the distant end site in Wahiawa, HI.

Sgt. Anthony J. Wark and Sgt. Alexander C. Fuquay worked effectively as a team, supervising Lance Cpl. Andre D. Thomas, Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Chapin, and Pfc. Isaac C. O'Neil as these Marines ran data lines, configured servers, and installed routers and switches for the data networks. Lance Cpl. Christopher K. Morgan-Reiss and Lance Cpl. Joseph H. Kersey were also of great value in ensuring that all users' laptops were properly added to the network for email and internet access.

Cpl.'s Marlena K. Helm, Walter F. Simonds, John C. Van and Lance Cpl. Nathan J. Bernardy, under the supervision of Sgt. Abraham F. Salinas set up the tactical switchboard and ensured that all phones were installed for all key personnel in the Command Element.

Cpl. David A. McLean and Lance Cpl. Hector L. Otero also were key players, ensuring that all communication outages due to power loss or failing equipment were recognized, assessed, and solved in an extremely efficient manner.

Cpl. Attikus W. Piper, Lance Cpl. Justin D. Schoonover, and Lance Cpl. Anthony R. Taylor set up all of the Forward Command Element's communication assets under the supervision of Sgt. Byron G. Pimentel to ensure they had multiple and reliable ways of communicating with units in the field as well as the command battle staff.

Thanks for all your support back home as this ensures we keep up our high level of morale and esprit de corps. We will continue to keep all of you as well informed as possible about our mission successes. As we look forward to the next training exercise, we will surely improve our skills to better serve the commanding officer.

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## **Headquarters Commandant Marines Make It Happen**

This past month has been a busy one for his section, said MSgt. Kevin Bonds, HQ Commandant. Bonds takes the time to praise and congratulate his Marines.

Congratulations to SSgt. Robert B. Callahan on his promotion to staff sergeant. A job well done to Sgt. Luis D. Almaguer, berthing and barracks NCO. His job is to make sure Marines and sailors have housing at Camp Pendleton and during training operations. Almaguer also makes sure the berthing area is maintained in a clean and orderly manner and handles embarkation and debarkation. Almaguer is great with his hands too. He can build you anything you need.

The other Marines in the section provided outstanding support to the MEU. Cpl. Samuel A. Schauer, armorer, was in charge of keeping and maintaining the MEU's weapons. He assisted as the Corporal of the Guard for the MEU's ammunition supply point.

Sgt. Gustavo M. Lucio, vehicle dispatcher, was responsible for making sure the transportation needs of the Marines were met. When anyone needed a vehicle to travel to Camp Pendleton or 29 Palms, he was the man!

Cpl. Trisha L. Rodriguez, food service specialist, helped to make sure everyone got fed.

The Headquarter Commandant is responsible for all, embarkation, debarkation, security, barracks and vehicles.



**Sgt Luis D. Almaguer, berthing and barracks NCO, builds a makeshift armory door counter, during Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts in September.**

## **Supply Section**

Supply has been doing a great job. Whenever the MEU needs something, they go out and buy it. Any time, any place. Support, support, that's what Supply is all about.

During Hurricane Katrina, supply bought everything the MEU needed on the spot. The operation was one of this MEU's first success stories and supply played a big part in it.

Great job Sgt. Coy P. Loftin! You have been working like a madman, running around making sure Marines have enough food and water so that they do not become dehydrated.



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## Postcards From Victorville

During the long work days of TRUE, Marines worked hard and often laugh hard. Mostly with each other but often at each other. Below is an example in which both examples apply. All in good fun of course.

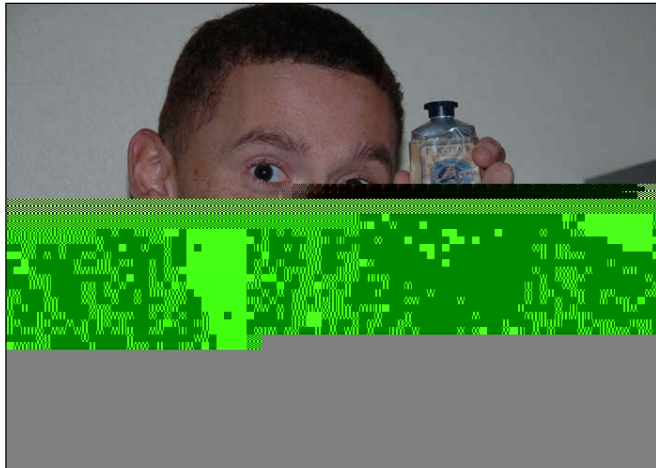


Photo by Sgt. Trevor Hooper

## Sweet-smelling and proud of it

Who said men shouldn't smell nice? Not Lance Cpl. Nicholas Aleman, Intelligence, and a self-proclaimed sweet-smelling Marine, showing off his expensive, European hand lotion. According to Marines in his unit, Aleman admits to owning \$30 deodorant. "He just loves to smell nice," said Staff Sgt. Robert Goering. His Marine buddies joke with him that he is a metrosexual, a cosmopolitan man who believes there is nothing wrong with grooming and pampering himself.

All joking aside, Goering calls Aleman a good Marine who just happens to smell a lot better than most of them. With the long hours the Intel Marines put in, and the few opportunities to take showers during TRUE, that is definitely not a bad thing.

## Wish you were here



Lance Cpl. Zaneta Smith is either tired or wishing you were here.



Cpl. Irene Chan and Lance Cpl. Britteny Carrington miss the rest of S1.

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## A Day Of Sun After The Storm

Marines from the Command Element enjoy a day of rest and relaxation just before their departure from Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in September.



**MSgt. Kevin Bonds, HQ Commandant, prepares his own personal meal.**



**RP1 Cleo Custodio shows off her skills.**



**1st Lt. Edward J. Hallinan works up an appetite with a few other Marines.**



**Lt. Col. Frank D. Topley overlooks a game of spades.**



**Col. John W. Bullard chats with the boys from Comm.**



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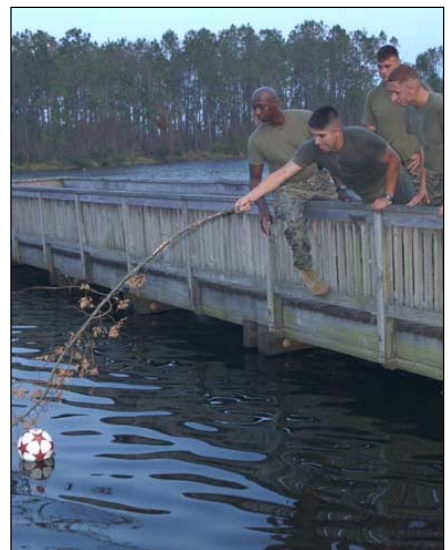
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## Just For Laughs

The Command Element took advantage of the little free time they had during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts last month. See if you can come up with some good captions of your own.



Hey Pfc. Diaz, come here for a minute. I've got something for you.



Oh yeah. Come to papa.



What?



Wait. This is my good side.



Seriously honey, I've only had one.

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## Just For Laughs at TRUE:



## Comm Water Sports

